

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph (section) beginning on page 5, at line 17 as shown below:

The hydrophilic fibers may be one or more of any suitable discontinuous, polymeric hydrophilic fibers, and are preferably provided in bundled form. Examples of suitable hydrophilic fibers include, but are not necessarily limited to PVA (polyvinyl alcohol) fibers, EVOH (~~ethyl vinyl acetate~~) ethylene-vinyl-alcohol fibers, and the like. Hydrophilic acrylic and acrylamide fibers may also be used.